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P.O. Box 98
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January 3, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
The Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Av, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001


Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing this letter in accordance to the Tunney Act to express my opinion in support of the settlement reached between Microsoft and Department of Justice regarding the antitrust suit. This settlement will finally bring a close to the more than three years of dubious court actions. It pleases me to see the Justice Department settle this case, and I hope the settlement is enacted promptly after the comment period.

This settlement was arrived at after extensive negotiations with a court-appointed mediator present. Microsoft is not getting the sweet-deal settlement that its competitors say it is getting. It is being scrutinized at all times by an independent committee to guarantee adherence to the settlement, and any time a competitor believes that Microsoft has overstepped its bounds, they can sue.

Even though I have reservations about the settlement's anti-entrepreneur bias, it is far preferable to breaking the company up. The decision to finalize the settlement and put this suit behind us is agreeable to me. Microsoft needs to be allowed to return to innovation.

Sincerely,



Ed Gustafson

cc: Senator Don Nickles